

-10-

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 21, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claim(s) 1-22 are now pending in this Application. Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 13 have been indicated as being in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 21, 22 as amended are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 14-17, 21, 22 have been amended. Applicants believe that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 have been herein amended per the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Specifically, the first network node has been clarified as a parent network node. Further, claims 4 and 14 have been amended to clarify antecedent issues concerning the map maintainer.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Wilby, U.S. Patent No. 5,941,955:

Claim(s) 1, 4-6, 8-11, 14-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,955 (Wilby, et al.) Applicant(s) respectfully disagree with these contentions and assert that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by any disclosure in the Wilby reference.

Specifically, the Office Action suggests that generation of the change relationship signal recited in claim 1 is suggested by Wilby at Col. 6, lines 3-7. Independent claims 11, 21 and 22 have been similarly rejected. Wilby, however, suggests a change command which indicates to a parent node that it should instead pass traffic to another node, presumably specified in the change command (col 6: lines 6-8). In contrast, the present claim 1 recites a change relationship signal which selectively updates the map of node relationships based on the sequence number in the change relationship signal, as discussed in the

-11-

specification at page 18: lines 9-25. The node relationships are selectively updated based on which change modification is more recent as indicated by the sequence number (23:20-23). Accordingly, Wilby '955 does not show, teach, or disclose selectively updating the map of node relationships based on the change relationship signal, as recited in amended claim 4.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Wilby '955 does not show, teach, or disclose a change relationship signal as recited in claim 1, and further, claim 4 has been herein amended to recite selectively updating the change relationship signal, to further clarify and distinguish claim 4. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1 and 4 are now allowable and it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C 102 be withdrawn in view of the above amendments and remarks. Further, independent claims 11, 21 and 22 are likewise deemed allowable for the reasons given above. Claim 14 has been amended similarly to claim 4 and is therefore also deemed allowable. As claims 6-10 and 14-20 depend, either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 11, these claims are also now deemed allowable as well.

Claims 14-17 have been amended to improve readability. As the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 11 it is submitted that these claims are also now allowable.

The Office Action indicates allowable subject matter in independent claims 2-3, 7 and 12-13. Accordingly, these claims have been amended per the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 as discussed above. Therefore, these claims are now deemed allowable and it is respectfully requested the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn in light of the above amendments.

If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee necessary, this fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

-12-

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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